



## **KH Board to Start Process of Creating Capella Advisory Board**

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When Capella Healthcare of Franklin, Tenn., and MUSC Health -- the patient care arm of the Medical University of South Carolina -- take over operations of KershawHealth, the county's public non-profit hospital will transition to a for-profit operation.

Closing of the Capella/MUSC deal is currently scheduled for May 31.

When that happens, the current KershawHealth Board of Trustees will move from creating and approving policy to administering a multi-million dollar trust and ensuring Capella is meeting the terms of its pending 40-year lease agreement.

A letter of intent (LOI) signed in December outlining the details of the transaction provides for the creation of a local Capella advisory board. The new board is to be made up "solely of residents" from KershawHealth's service area, with 50 percent of members representing the medical staff and the other 50 percent representing the community. Never more than 50 percent of the board can be made up of either Capella or MUSC employees. The LOI gives the current board of trustees the power to nominate the first advisory board members, subject to Capella's approval.

Meanwhile, as the current board moves to its new role as administrative trustees of what is legally known as the Kershaw County Hospital Service District, it will need to appoint an executive director.

The board took the first steps in creating both the new advisory board and finding an executive director at the end of its April 13 meeting. Following an executive session, Chair Karen Eckford announced the creation of two ad hoc committees.

The first committee will review advisory board applications and bring a slate to the current board at its next meeting, scheduled for April 27. That committee will be chaired by Trustee Susan Outen and include trustees Bobby Jones and Eric Boland.

The second committee will schedule interviews for candidates for the service district's executive director position, for which Eckford said the board has already posted the opening and is actively recruiting. This ad hoc committee will work with KershawHealth Vice President of Human Resources & Support Services Angela Nettles. Eckford said recommendations should be brought forward at the April 27 meeting as well. Boland will chair the committee whose members will include trustees Derial Ogburn and Wayne Tidwell.

Eckford also announced the board's May 25 meeting will be moved to May 26, because May 25 is Memorial Day.

During the meeting itself, the board decided to hold off on taking any action on a new utilization management plan. A Medicare requirement, the plan is used to make sure patients are admitted and discharged appropriately so hospitals receive the appropriate reimbursements from Medicare. Some trustees raised questions concerning a provision which would allow two or more physician members of a review committee to overrule the attending physician's discharge decisions.

The board will take up the matter at a future meeting.

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